the Special Task Force (STF) operations. Both the State Government had requested the Central Government tor providing assistance to supplement and improve their resources in the conduct of operations against Veerappan and his gang. As per their request the Central Government provided necessary assistance by way of deployment of BSF supply of weaponry and equipment, etc.

Amendment of Article 371

*240. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought amendment of the Constitution to bring the State under Article 371 to expedite the development works in seven backward districts of North Karnataka;

(b) which are the States already notified under Article 371; and

(c) will be Government take steps to bring Karnataka under Article 371?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from the State Government of Karnataka to amend the Constitution to provide for special provisions in respect of Karnataka under Article 371 of the Constitution. The State Government have been asked for certain clarifications on their proposal.

The States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa are covered under the Provisions of Article 371 of the Constitution.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Budgetary Support for the Development of North-Eastern States

1665. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has chalked out its own Action Plan for the progress of North-Eastern Region and removal of industrial backwardness there, keeping in view the directive issued by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission to all the Ministries including Ministry of Coal and Mines for spending 10 per cent of gross budgetary support for development of North- Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken for implementation of the Action Plan and removal of industrial backwardness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir, Ten per cent of plan funds of Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines subordinate offices of Department of Mines have been earmarked for spending in North Eastern Region with a view to remove economic backwardness. The details of the steps taken for implementation of the Action Plan and removal of industrial backwardness of the North-Eastern Region are. given in the Statement *{see* below). For Department of Mines, Planning Commission has exempted the profit making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) such as National Aluminium Company Limited and Hindustan Zinc Limited who have no activities in North Eastern Region and loss-making PSUs from making this provision. No provisions are required to be made in respect of foreign aid also.

Department of Coal also has been earmarking 10% of the gross budgetary support for benefit of North Eastern Region and Sikkim. The scope of the Action Plan is limited to the places where activities relating to coal exploration/ production can take place. The allocation for the previous year has been placed at the disposal of Coal India Limited for preparing schemes to assist North Eastern Coalfields.

Statement

Action Plan for Development of North-Eastern Region

(A) Geological Survey of India

The following are the activities being undertaken for the development of mineral industry in the NE Region and Sikkim :

(1) Mineral Investigation for (i) Gold in Potil Yazali area. Arunachal Pradesh, (ii) Lead in Mawmaram area, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya (iii) Dimension Stone in Meghalaya, (iv) Limestone in Lumthalary block. Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, (v) Limestone in Diastong block, Jantia Hills, Meghalaya and (vi) Basemetals in Rangdu-Sodunglakha-Kerabari area, East district Sikkim.

GSI is carrying out Systematic Geological Mapping in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. Specialised Thematic Mapping in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. Development of Village Economy through Mineral Appraisal for Meghalaya Assam and Tripura Geotechnical Investigation in Arunachal Pradesh.

Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Sikkim Seismotectonic Project Active fault mappingforNeotectonic and Palaeoseismic study in Garo Hill, Meghalaya and Goalpara district. Assam Geoen vironmental Project in the States of Assam, Mizoram and Sikkim and Research Project in the field of Petrological, Palaeontological and Photogeological were taken up in the states of Meghalaya Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

(2) It is to mention that development strategy is a state subject to be planned and implemented by the State Govt. GSI'only collects the information interprets and disseminates the same to the user agencies.

(B) Indian Bureau of Mines

The following are the activities being undertaken for the development of mineral industry in the NE Region and Sikkim;

* The equipments such as Particle Size Analyser and Carpco Model Cryofilter ST/75 HN have been procured.
* Training programmes one at Aizwal and other at Dimapur were organised for 56 Geologists and Mining Engineers of NE Region.
* The preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Dikchu Copper Mine and Bhotang Copper Mine of M/s. Sikkim Mining Corporation (SMC) has been taken up.
* IBM has taken up six consultancy assignments in the Region.

Benefits of the Schemes:

The studies/schemes can benefit NER in the following ways:

(i) Development of mineral wealth for various industries indirectly helps in utilisation of natural resources and growth of other mineral based industries.

(ii) Training programmes undertaken by IBM are beneficial to Government and semi Government organisations of NE States and to develop expertise in the field of exploration, prospecting and also bring about awareness in environmental studies.

(C) Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited

For the development of Mining in North Eastern region MECL has undertaken 12 mineral exploration projects and 4 geotechnical investigations in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

As a result of exploration efforts by MECL mineral reserves as per following details have been established:

State	Mineral	Reserves (in metric tones)	Grade
Arunachal Pradesh	Coal	55.73	Ungraded
	Quartzite	1.25	Ferrosillicon Grade
Assam	Coal	133.95	Ungraded
Meghalaya	Coal	79.46	Ungraded
	Limestone	229.97	Cement Grade
	Sillimanite	0.01	Grade-II
Nagaland	Coal	2.45	Ungraded
Sikkim	Polymetal	0.35	3.10% Cu & 0.99%Zn

The coal blocks are being developed by Coal India Ltd. while the polymetal deposits is being exploited by Sikkim Mining Corporation. The geotechnical investigations undertaken have facilitated selection of site for Dam(s) by respective State Government Organisations.

Joint ventures taken up by CIL for the production of coal

1666. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. is taking up new projects through joint venture for production of coal;

(b) if so, hour far the production capacity is expected to be expanded; and

(c) the steps taken to invite participants and the details of willing participants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) is exploring different routes including joint venture route for development of new projects. Two opencast projects namely, Magadh and Amrapali in the command area of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) have so far been identified for joint venture for production of coal.